



FJ Edu Online Exam CA
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1. Consider the following statements regarding Semicon 2.0:

1. The programme places domestic chip design and intellectual property at the centre of the expanded semiconductor strategy.
2. The operational framework limits public support to fabrication plants and excludes advanced packaging and manufacturing equipment.

- A) 1 only
B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2
D) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

• The Indian Express reported that Semicon 2.0 expands support beyond fabrication to chip design, IP, equipment, raw materials, fabs and advanced packaging. Hence statement 1 is correct, while statement 2 is incorrect. The policy shift is important because semiconductor value chains include design, fabrication, packaging and equipment, not fabrication alone.

2. Consider the following statements about India's Russian crude imports in August 2026:

1. Russian crude imports fell from 2.82 million barrels per day in July to 2.08 million barrels per day in August.
2. Russia's share in India's crude import basket rose from 45% in July to 55.9% in August.

- A) Neither 1 nor 2
B) 1 only
C) 2 only
D) Both 1 and 2

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

• The Indian Express, citing Kpler tanker data, reported Russian imports at 2.08 million bpd in August against 2.82 million bpd in July. Russia's share moved in the opposite direction, falling to 45% from 55.9%. Thus statement 1 is correct and statement 2 reverses the reported movement.

3. With reference to the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026:

1. The rules seek to make IST the legally enforceable reference for official and commercial use.
 2. They require systems across sectors to synchronise to time traceable to IST.
- A) 2 only
B) Both 1 and 2
C) Neither 1 nor 2
D) 1 only

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express explained that the 2026 rules make Indian Standard Time legally enforceable for official and commercial use and require systems to synchronise to time traceable to IST. The measure is therefore about a common national time reference, rather than merely changing clocks or time zones.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the CAG's observations on IIM Rohtak:

1. The variable-pay regulations cited in the audit became effective upon publication in the Official Gazette on 25 October 2021.
 2. The reported variable-pay payment of ₹3.2 crore covered only the period after those regulations came into force.
- A) 1 only
B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2
D) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that IIM Rohtak's regulations became effective on 25 October 2021, whereas the ₹3.2-crore payment covered 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. Therefore, statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect. The issue concerned retrospective application and procedural safeguards.

5. Consider the following statements about Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma:

1. She became the first woman non-medical officer in the Indian Armed Forces to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal or equivalent.
2. She assumed charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters.

- A) Neither 1 nor 2
 B) 1 only
 C) 2 only
 D) Both 1 and 2

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported both milestones. Sharma became the first woman non-medical officer in the armed forces to reach Air Vice Marshal or equivalent and assumed charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education). The story also linked her career to the IAF's Education Branch and long service across training and headquarters establishments.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the SCO's 2026 declaration:

1. SCO members reaffirmed commitment to combating terrorism, separatism and extremism.
2. The declaration endorsed the use of terrorist groups by member states when such groups serve strategic interests.

- A) Both 1 and 2
 B) Neither 1 nor 2
 C) 1 only
 D) 2 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that the SCO declaration reaffirmed opposition to terrorism, separatism and extremism and stressed the inadmissibility of exploiting such groups for selfish purposes. Thus statement 1 is correct, while statement 2 contradicts the declaration. The distinction reflects the SCO's established security vocabulary of the 'three evils'.

7. Consider the following statements about Semicon 2.0:

1. It was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026.
2. It is designed only for government-owned semiconductor companies.
3. Its support architecture includes strategic, commercial and scaled domestic chip-design tracks.

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only
D) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported Cabinet approval in July and described three design-oriented tracks covering strategic technologies, commercially viable chips and domestically developed chips deployed at scale. The programme is not restricted to government-owned firms. Hence statements 1 and 3 are correct.

8. With reference to India's oil-import pattern in August 2026:

1. India's total crude imports were about 4.62 million barrels per day.
2. Total imports were lower than the July level of 5.04 million barrels per day.
3. Venezuelan oil imports reached their highest monthly level since 2020.

- A) 1 and 3 only
B) 1, 2 and 3
C) 1 and 2 only
D) 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- Kpler data reported by The Indian Express put India's August oil imports at 4.62 million bpd, down from 5.04 million bpd in July. Venezuelan imports reached their highest monthly level since 2020. All three statements are therefore supported. The story linked the shift to Russian supply pressure, Chinese competition and West Asian disruptions.

9. Regarding India's new national time architecture, consider:

1. CSIR-NPL is involved in maintaining the national reference for time and frequency.
2. Regional Reference Standard Laboratories are under the Consumer Affairs Ministry.
3. NavIC has no relevance to India's timing infrastructure.

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 3 only

C) 1, 2 and 3

D) 1 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express explained that CSIR-NPL, Regional Reference Standard Laboratories under the Consumer Affairs Ministry, and NavIC are part of India's timing infrastructure. Therefore statements 1 and 2 are correct, while statement 3 is incorrect. The rules aim at traceable synchronisation rather than a new time zone.

10. Consider the CAG findings concerning IIM Rohtak:

1. The Board of Governors considered variable pay on occasions when the matter was not on a pre-approved agenda.
2. The audit flagged periods when the board was not constituted as required by the IIM Act.
3. The Ministry of Education concurred with the audit observation in April 2026.

A) 2 and 3 only

B) 1 and 3 only

C) 1, 2 and 3

D) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported all three points from the CAG audit. The Board discussed variable pay outside pre-approved agendas, some meetings occurred when the board was not properly constituted, and the Ministry concurred with the audit observation in April 2026. The episode highlights procedural accountability in autonomous institutions.

11. Consider the following about women officers in India's armed forces:

1. The IAF granted Permanent Commission to women officers in 2010.
2. The Army and Navy began granting Permanent Commission to women in select arms, services and branches in 2008.
3. The extension to multiple additional branches in the Army and Navy occurred in 2020 after Supreme Court intervention.

- A) 1 and 2 only
 B) 2 and 3 only
 C) 1 and 3 only
 D) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express's profile of AVM Shakti Sharma noted that the IAF formally granted Permanent Commission to women officers in 2010. It also stated that the Army and Navy started in select areas in 2008 and expanded to multiple branches in 2020 following Supreme Court intervention. All three statements are correct.

12. With reference to the Nepal flood rescue effort:

1. Indian rescue teams reached hydropower tunnels at Chilime.
2. Restricted access space complicated rescue operations.
3. The rescue teams operated without any terrain-related limitations on specialised equipment.

- A) 1 and 3 only
 B) 1, 2 and 3
 C) 1 and 2 only
 D) 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that Indian tunnel rescue teams established a foothold at hydropower tunnels in Chilime and faced extremely restricted access space, terrain-related limits on specialised equipment and a marshy tunnel floor. Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct, while statement 3 is false.

13. Consider the following statements about the Maharashtra Special Intensive Revision (SIR):

1. The Election Commission cautioned that the reported 2.07-crore figure should not be treated as the definite number of voters to be deleted.
 2. Persons excluded from the draft could seek inclusion through the prescribed claims process.
 3. The SIR was conducted by the Supreme Court rather than the Election Commission.
- A) 1 and 2 only
 B) 2 and 3 only
 C) 1 and 3 only
 D) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that the Election Commission itself clarified that 2.07 crore was not a final deletion figure. The SIR process also provides a route for eligible persons to seek inclusion. It is an electoral-roll exercise of the Election Commission, not a judicial process. Thus statements 1 and 2 are correct.

14. Regarding India's crude-supply diversification in 2026:

1. Imports from Venezuela increased in August 2026 compared with July.
 2. Imports from Iraq had fallen sharply from pre-war levels.
 3. Saudi Arabia and the UAE were noted as having pipeline infrastructure that can bypass the Strait of Hormuz for some oil output.
- A) 1, 2 and 3
 B) 1 and 2 only
 C) 2 and 3 only
 D) 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported a 60.2% month-on-month rise in Venezuelan crude imports to about 350,000 bpd, while Iraqi imports had fallen to a fraction of pre-war levels. It also noted that Saudi Arabia and the UAE can use pipeline infrastructure to bypass the Strait for some output. All three statements are supported.

15. Consider the following statements about the SCO context reported on 2 September 2026:

1. Pakistan assumed the rotating SCO chairmanship from Kyrgyzstan.
2. Pakistan is to host the heads-of-state summit in the following cycle.
3. India's SCO vision was described as Security, Connectivity and Opportunity.

- A) 1, 2 and 3
- B) 1 and 2 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Times of India reported that Pakistan assumed the rotating chair from Kyrgyzstan and would host the heads-of-state summit in the next cycle. PM Modi also reiterated India's SCO vision of Security, Connectivity and Opportunity, first articulated in Tianjin the previous year. Hence all three statements are correct.

16. Match the Semicon 2.0 component with its reported focus:

List I

1. Strategic design track
2. Commercial design track
3. Scale-deployment track
4. Advanced packaging support

List II

- A. Chips developed domestically and deployed at scale
- B. Semiconductor technologies needed for strategic purposes
- C. Commercially viable Indian chip companies/products
- D. Expanded support beyond fabrication into packaging

- A) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-D
- B) 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A
- C) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D
- D) 1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-A

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Indian Express described Semicon 2.0 as having three design-oriented tracks: strategic technologies, commercially viable chips, and domestically developed chips deployed at scale. The expanded ecosystem also includes advanced packaging. Hence 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D.

17. Regarding India's Russian crude imports in August 2026:

1. Russian imports were 2.08 million bpd.
2. They were 26.3% lower than July.
3. Russia's share of India's crude basket was 45%.
4. Kpler expected Russian flows to immediately fall below 1 million bpd.

- A) 1 and 3 only
 B) 2 and 4 only
 C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

• The Indian Express reported 2.08 million bpd, a 26.3% fall from July, with Russia's share at 45%. It said flows were expected to stabilise around 2.0–2.5 million bpd in the foreseeable future, not below 1 million bpd. Therefore statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

18. Consider the following about AVM Shakti Sharma:

1. She was commissioned into the IAF Education Branch in 1994.
2. She served as Principal of Sainik School, Kapurthala.
3. She established IAF Chairs of Excellence at IIT-Kanpur and Pune University.
4. She was the first woman IAF officer to command a missile squadron in the western sector.

- A) 2 and 4 only
 B) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 C) 1, 2 and 3 only
 D) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

• The Indian Express reported that Sharma was commissioned into the Education Branch on 18 June 1994, served as Principal of Sainik School Kapurthala, and spearheaded IAF Chairs of Excellence at IIT-Kanpur and Pune University. The missile-squadron command milestone belonged to Group Captain Shaliza Dharmi. Hence 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

19. Consider the SCO declaration reported on 2 September:

1. It condemned terrorism.
 2. It condemned separatism.
 3. It condemned extremism.
 4. It accepted double standards in counter-terrorism as legitimate diplomatic practice.
- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
B) 1, 2 and 4 only
C) 2, 3 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported the SCO declaration's commitment to combating terrorism, separatism and extremism and its rejection of attempts to exploit such groups. The Times of India similarly reported India's participation in the condemnation of double standards. Statement 4 therefore reverses the declaration's position.

20. Consider the following statements about India's August oil-import data:

1. Total imports fell by 8.4% month-on-month.
 2. July total imports were 5.04 million bpd.
 3. August total imports were 4.62 million bpd.
 4. Russian crude imports increased by 26.3% month-on-month.
- A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
B) 1, 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 4 only
D) 2 and 4 only

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express, using Kpler data, reported an 8.4% fall in total oil imports from 5.04 million bpd in July to 4.62 million bpd in August. Russian imports fell 26.3%, rather than increased by that amount. Thus 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

21. Regarding the Northern Sea Route (NSR) in the reported Russian oil trade context:

1. August and September are peak traffic months in a normal year because of thinner ice.
 2. Black Sea drone threats were cited as a factor encouraging greater use of the NSR.
 3. The NSR automatically makes China the least competitive destination for Russian crude.
 4. The route was discussed in the context of Russia's constrained export logistics.
- A) 1, 2 and 4 only
 B) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 C) 1 and 2 only
 D) 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that August and September are peak NSR traffic months in normal conditions because of thinner ice. Black Sea security risks encouraged greater use, and the article linked this to China's cost competitiveness. Statement 3 is wrong because the report said the route logically made China more cost-competitive, not less.

22. Consider the following statements:

1. India normally receives about 40% of its crude imports through the Strait of Hormuz.
 2. A large part of that supply was reported to be offline.
 3. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have pipeline infrastructure that can bypass the Strait for some output.
 4. India's crude strategy remained entirely dependent on Gulf suppliers despite the disruption.
- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
 B) 1 and 4 only
 C) 2 and 3 only
 D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express stated that about 40% of India's crude imports usually came through Hormuz and much of that supply was effectively offline. It also noted bypass pipelines in Saudi Arabia and the UAE and India's diversification toward African, North American and South American barrels. Statement 4 is therefore incorrect.

23. Consider the following statements about Venezuela's role in India's crude basket:

1. August 2026 imports from Venezuela were about 350,000 bpd.
 2. They were 60.2% higher than in July.
 3. Venezuela had been an important supplier before US sanctions were imposed in 2019.
 4. India imported no Venezuelan crude at any point after 2019.
- A) 2, 3 and 4 only
B) 1, 2, 3 and 4
C) 1, 2 and 3 only
D) 1, 2 and 4 only

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported about 350,000 bpd from Venezuela in August, up 60.2% from July. It also recalled India's pre-2019 purchases and later resumption episodes after sanctions waivers. Therefore statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct; statement 4 is false.

24. With reference to the Nepal rescue operation:

1. Indian teams worked at hydropower tunnels.
 2. Chilime was one of the locations mentioned.
 3. Restricted tunnel access affected operations.
 4. A marshy tunnel floor was among the challenges.
- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1, 2 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported all four details. Indian tunnel rescue teams established a foothold at hydropower tunnels in Chilime and faced extremely restricted access, limits on specialised equipment because of terrain and a marshy tunnel floor. The story illustrates how confined underground spaces complicate disaster rescue.

25. Consider the following about Maharashtra SIR reporting:

1. The Election Commission said 2.07 crore should not be treated as the final deletion figure.
2. The SIR draft roll had already become the final electoral roll.
3. Eligible persons excluded from the draft could pursue inclusion.
4. Electoral-roll revision has implications for the exercise of the franchise.

- A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
B) 1 and 3 only
C) 2 and 4 only
D) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported the EC's clarification that 2.07 crore was not a definitive deletion figure and noted the claims route for persons seeking inclusion. A draft roll is not the same as a final roll. The franchise linkage is a constitutional and statutory implication. Thus 1, 3 and 4 are correct.

26. Consider the following statements about the IAF and women officers:

1. Shakti Sharma belongs to the Education Branch.
2. Her promotion made her the first woman non-medical officer to attain AVM or equivalent.
3. The Army and Navy had already seen women reach Colonel and equivalent before this milestone.
4. She was the first woman pilot to clear the Fighter Combat Leader course.

- A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
B) 1, 2 and 3 only
C) 1, 2 and 4 only
D) 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported Sharma's Education Branch background and her AVM milestone, while noting that women in the Army and Navy had so far reached Colonel and equivalent. The Fighter Combat Leader course milestone belonged to Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth. Therefore 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

27. Consider the following statements regarding CAG's recommendations for IIMs:

1. A uniform framework for variable pay was suggested.
 2. Transparency and fiscal prudence were emphasised.
 3. Formal recording of recusal in matters of personal interest was recommended.
 4. Performance benchmarks and supporting data were considered unnecessary if the Board approved payment.
- A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 B) 1 and 2 only
 C) 2 and 4 only
 D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that CAG recommended a uniform, transparent and fiscally prudent framework and formal recording of recusal. It also called for proper documentation of performance benchmarks, evaluation records and supporting data. Statement 4 therefore contradicts the audit recommendations.

28. Consider the following:

1. Pakistan assumed the SCO chair from Kyrgyzstan.
 2. Pakistan is expected to host the next heads-of-state summit.
 3. India emphasised that connectivity initiatives should respect sovereignty and territorial integrity.
 4. SCO membership automatically converts all member states into a single customs union.
- A) 2 and 3 only
 B) 1, 2 and 3 only
 C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 D) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Times of India reported the chairmanship transfer, Pakistan's hosting role for the next summit, and PM Modi's emphasis on sovereignty and territorial integrity for connectivity. SCO is not a customs union. Hence statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

29. Regarding Russian crude logistics:

1. A Suezmax voyage from Novorossiysk to India's west coast was reported at about \$20 million.
2. The comparable figure from Baltic ports was about \$13 million.
3. Black Sea navigation risks were cited as affecting freight economics.
4. The article said Black Sea routes had become completely unavailable for all tankers.

A) 1, 2 and 3 only

B) 1 and 3 only

C) 2 and 4 only

D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express gave approximate voyage costs of \$20 million from Novorossiysk and \$13 million from Baltic ports and linked the differential to Black Sea risks. It did not say the Black Sea was completely unavailable to all tankers. Thus 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

30. Consider the following statements about India's oil diversification:

1. African crude was among the alternative sources mentioned.
2. North American barrels were among the alternatives.
3. South American barrels were among the alternatives.
4. Diversification was presented as a response to tighter West Asian flows and higher freight risks.

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 2 and 4 only

C) 1, 3 and 4 only

D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express described India's shift toward African, North American and South American crude as a response to Strait of Hormuz disruptions and higher freight risks. All four statements accurately reflect the reported diversification strategy.

31. Consider the following statements concerning the IIM Act, 2017:

1. The Act provides for variable pay linked to performance objectives.
2. The Board can frame regulations concerning performance objectives.
3. The reported CAG discussion concerned the Ministry of Defence.
4. The audit report was tabled in the Lok Sabha on 12 August.

A) 2 and 3 only

B) 1, 2, 3 and 4

C) 1, 2 and 4 only

D) 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

• The Indian Express reported that the IIM Act, 2017 entitles a director to variable pay based on performance objectives and empowers the Board to frame regulations. The matter concerned the Ministry of Education, not Defence, and the audit report was tabled in the Lok Sabha on 12 August. Hence 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

32. Consider the following statements about India's crude imports and the Strait of Hormuz:

1. About 40% of India's crude imports normally pass through Hormuz.
2. Iraq was described as India's second-largest crude source before its imports fell sharply.
3. Saudi Arabia and the UAE can bypass Hormuz for some oil through pipelines.
4. The disruption had no bearing on India's import diversification.

A) 2 and 3 only

B) 1, 2 and 3 only

C) 1, 2, 3 and 4

D) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

• The Indian Express linked Hormuz disruption to India's diversification, noted the usual 40% dependence on the strait, identified Iraq as a major supplier whose flows had fallen, and cited pipeline bypasses in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Therefore statement 4 is incorrect; 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

33. Consider the following:

1. India's August Russian crude imports were below July's record.
 2. China's competition for Russian barrels was identified as a factor.
 3. Maintenance shutdowns at some Indian refineries may have contributed to lower imports.
 4. The report concluded that Russian crude would immediately disappear from India's import mix.
- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
 B) 2, 3 and 4 only
 C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 D) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer is : A**Explanation :**

- The Indian Express attributed the August decline to tighter Russian availability, Chinese competition and possible refinery maintenance shutdowns. It described Russian crude as likely to remain the mainstay, with flows expected to stabilise around 2.0–2.5 million bpd. Thus 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

34. Assertion (A): India's Russian crude imports fell sharply in August 2026.**Reason (R):** The reported decline was associated with tighter Russian export availability, stronger Chinese competition and some Indian refinery maintenance.

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 C) A is true, but R is false.
 D) A is false, but R is true.

Correct Answer is : C**Explanation :**

- Both statements are supported by The Indian Express. Kpler data showed Russian imports falling 26.3% from July's record level, while the report identified tighter Russian supply, stronger Chinese competition and possible refinery maintenance as contributing factors. The reason therefore directly explains the assertion.

35. Assertion (A): The 2026 IST rules are primarily about establishing a second Indian time zone.**Reason (R):** The rules require systems to synchronise to time traceable to IST.

- A) A is true, but R is false.
 B) A is false, but R is true.
 C) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 D) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Correct Answer is : B**Explanation :**

- The assertion is false. The Indian Express explained that the rules establish IST as a legally enforceable national reference and require traceability to it; they do not create a second time zone. The reason is true. Hence option D applies.

36. Assertion (A): CAG objected to the retrospective application of IIM Rohtak's variable-pay regulations.

Reason (R): The regulations became effective only in October 2021, whereas the payment under scrutiny covered earlier financial years.

- A) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- B) A is true, but R is false.
- C) A is false, but R is true.
- D) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that the regulations took effect on 25 October 2021, while the payment covered 2018-19 through 2020-21. CAG specifically recommended avoiding retrospective application. The timing mismatch is therefore the direct reason for the audit concern.

37. Assertion (A): India's oil-import diversification intensified in 2026.

Reason (R): Disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz increased freight and supply risks for West Asian crude.

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported diversification toward African, North American and South American barrels after Hormuz disruptions tightened West Asian flows and raised freight risks. Thus both statements are true and the reason directly explains the policy response in the import basket.

38. Assertion (A): The Northern Sea Route became relevant to India's Russian-crude story.

Reason (R): Black Sea security risks and freight economics encouraged some Russian exporters to use the Northern Sea Route, with China becoming a more cost-competitive destination.

- A) A is true, but R is false.
- B) A is false, but R is true.
- C) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- D) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express linked the Northern Sea Route to Russian exporters facing Black Sea drone threats and freight disadvantages. It also observed that the route could make China a more cost-competitive destination. Both statements are therefore true, with the reason explaining why the route entered the trade discussion.

39. Assertion (A): AVM Shakti Sharma's milestone was in the IAF Education Branch.

Reason (R): She was commissioned into the IAF Education Branch in June 1994.

- A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true, but R is false.
- D) A is false, but R is true.

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that Sharma was commissioned into the Education Branch on 18 June 1994 and later assumed charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education). Her AVM milestone is therefore directly associated with the Education Branch career described in the report.

40. Assertion (A): The SCO declaration rejected double standards in counter-terrorism.

Reason (R): The declaration reaffirmed opposition to terrorism, separatism and extremism and to exploiting such groups for selfish purposes.

- A) A is true, but R is false.
- B) A is false, but R is true.
- C) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- D) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Indian Express and Times of India reported the SCO's rejection of double standards and its reaffirmation of combating terrorism, separatism and extremism. The language against exploiting such groups for selfish purposes provides the substantive basis for the assertion.

41. Assertion (A): India's August crude-import decline was driven solely by lower Russian supplies.

Reason (R): The report also identified Chinese competition and possible Indian refinery maintenance as factors.

- A) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- B) A is true, but R is false.
- C) A is false, but R is true.
- D) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The assertion is false because the Indian Express identified multiple factors behind the decline, including tighter Russian export availability, Chinese competition and refinery maintenance. The reason is true. Therefore the second statement correctly demonstrates why the 'solely' claim is too broad.

42. Assertion (A): The CAG episode at IIM Rohtak raised concerns about conflict-of-interest safeguards.

Reason (R): The regulations required the director to recuse himself in matters involving conflict of interest.

- A) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- B) A is true, but R is false.
- C) A is false, but R is true.
- D) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that the applicable regulations required recusal by the director in conflict-of-interest matters and that CAG recommended formal recording of such recusal. Thus the assertion and reason are both true, and the regulatory requirement explains the audit concern.

43. Match List I with List II:

List I (Institution/Entity)

- 1. CSIR-NPL
- 2. Kpler
- 3. CAG
- 4. IAF

List II (Role/Context)

- A. Defence force discussed in the AVM Shakti Sharma story
- B. Audit institution examining IIM variable pay
- C. Time and frequency metrology
- D. Commodity-market analytics and vessel tracking

- A) 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A
- B) 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B
- C) 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C
- D) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- CSIR-NPL was identified in the IST story as a national time-and-frequency metrology institution; Kpler supplied tanker and commodity tracking data in the oil story; CAG audited the IIM episode; and the IAF was the service in which Shakti Sharma attained AVM. Hence 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A.

44. Match the reported figure with its context:

List I

1. ₹3.2 crore
2. ₹1.275 lakh crore
3. 2.08 million bpd
4. 4.62 million bpd

List II

- A. Semicon 2.0 outlay
- B. IIM Rohtak variable pay
- C. Russian crude imports in August
- D. India's total oil imports in August

A) 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B

B) 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A

C) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-D

D) 1-A, 2-B, 3-D, 4-C

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

• The reported figures map directly to four separate stories: ₹3.2 crore was the IIM Rohtak variable-pay amount; ₹1.275 lakh crore was Semicon 2.0's outlay; Russian crude imports were 2.08 million bpd; and India's total August oil imports were 4.62 million bpd. Therefore A is correct.

45. Match the person/entity with the associated news context:

List I

1. Shakti Sharma
2. Poonam Arora
3. Dheeraj Sharma
4. Narendra Modi

List II

A. IIM Rohtak director

B. SCO remarks on security and connectivity

C. Head of Time & Frequency Metrology at CSIR-NPL

D. First woman non-medical AVM in Indian armed forces

A) 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B

B) 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B

C) 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B

D) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

• Shakti Sharma was the AVM milestone; Poonam Arora was identified as Head of Time & Frequency Metrology at CSIR-NPL; Dheeraj Sharma was the IIM Rohtak director; and Modi delivered the SCO remarks. The correct mapping is 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B.

46. Match the route/location with the reported context:

List I

1. Chilime
2. Strait of Hormuz
3. Northern Sea Route
4. Kapurthala

List II

- A. Sainik School led by AVM Shakti Sharma
- B. Hydropower tunnel rescue
- C. Major oil chokepoint discussed in India's imports
- D. Arctic route relevant to Russian crude logistics

A) 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B

B) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

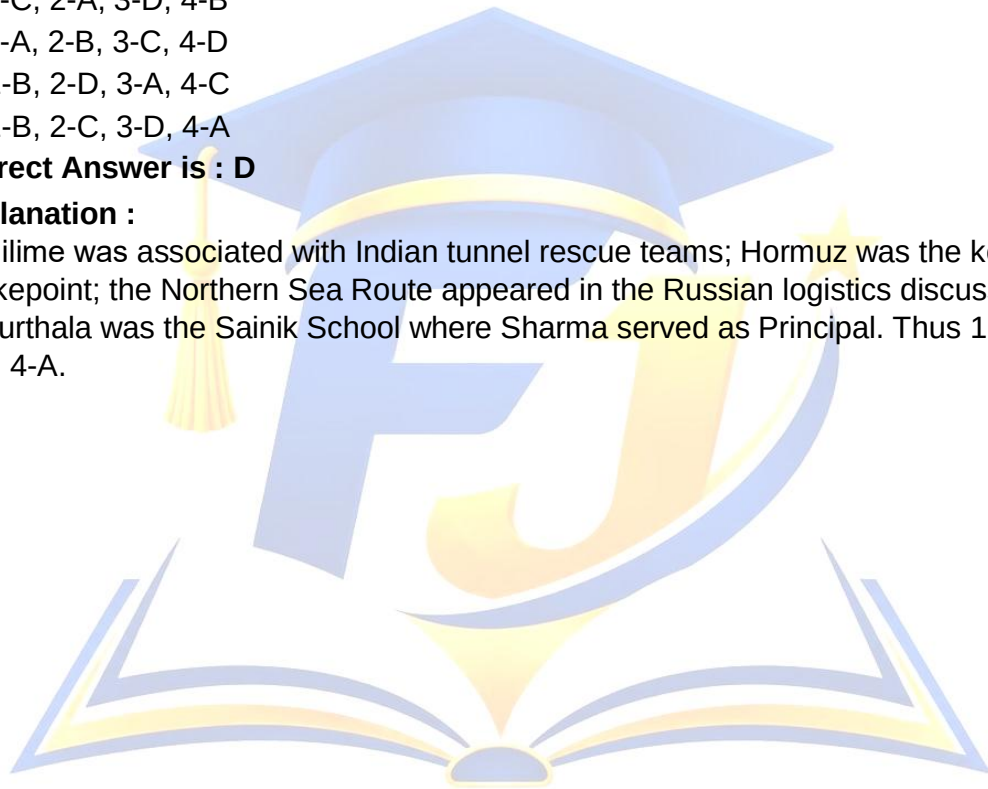
C) 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C

D) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- Chilime was associated with Indian tunnel rescue teams; Hormuz was the key oil chokepoint; the Northern Sea Route appeared in the Russian logistics discussion; and Kapurthala was the Sainik School where Sharma served as Principal. Thus 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A.



47. Match the policy/institution with the relevant legal or administrative feature:

List I

1. Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2026
2. IIM Act, 2017
3. SCO Charter
4. Election Commission's SIR process

List II

- A. Electoral-roll revision
- B. Framework concerning IIM director performance-linked variable pay
- C. Connectivity should respect sovereignty and territorial integrity
- D. Legally enforceable national time reference

A) 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A

B) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

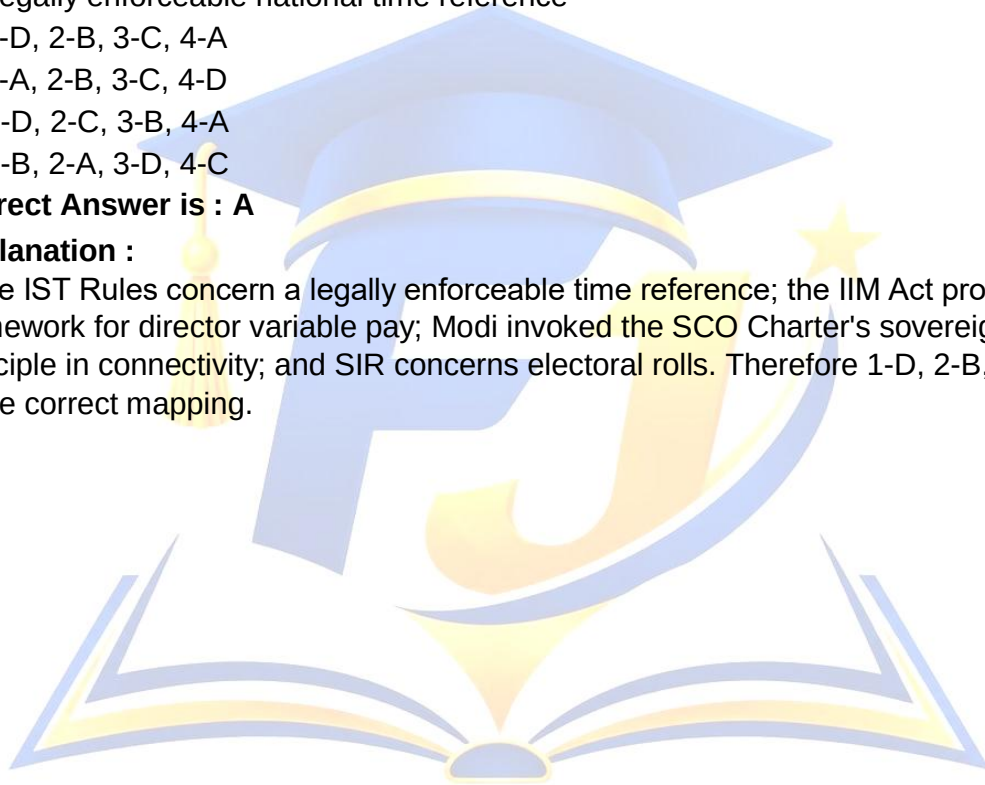
C) 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A

D) 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The IST Rules concern a legally enforceable time reference; the IIM Act provides the framework for director variable pay; Modi invoked the SCO Charter's sovereignty principle in connectivity; and SIR concerns electoral rolls. Therefore 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A is the correct mapping.



48. Match the country/entity with the oil-trade context:

List I

1. Russia
2. Venezuela
3. China
4. Saudi Arabia/UAE

List II

- A. Alternative suppliers with pipeline capacity to bypass Hormuz for some output
- B. Supplier whose crude share in India fell to 45% in August
- C. Destination whose competition for Russian barrels increased
- D. Supplier whose August imports to India reached about 350,000 bpd

A) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

B) 1-A, 2-D, 3-B, 4-C

C) 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A

D) 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A

Correct Answer is : C**Explanation :**

• Russia's share fell to 45%; Venezuela supplied about 350,000 bpd; China was cited as stronger competition for Russian barrels; and Saudi Arabia/UAE were noted for pipeline bypass capacity. This gives 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A.

49. Match the reported data point with the correct comparison:

List I

1. Russian crude, August
2. Russian crude, July
3. Total Indian oil imports, August
4. Total Indian oil imports, July

List II

A. 5.04 million bpd

B. 2.08 million bpd

C. 4.62 million bpd

D. 2.82 million bpd

A) 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C

B) 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B

C) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

D) 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A

Correct Answer is : A**Explanation :**

• The Indian Express/Kpler figures were 2.08 million bpd Russian crude in August versus 2.82 million bpd in July, and 4.62 million bpd total imports in August versus 5.04 million bpd in July. The mapping is therefore 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A.

50. Match the woman officer with the milestone:

List I

1. Shakti Sharma
2. Shaliza Dhami
3. Bhawana Kanth
4. Saanya

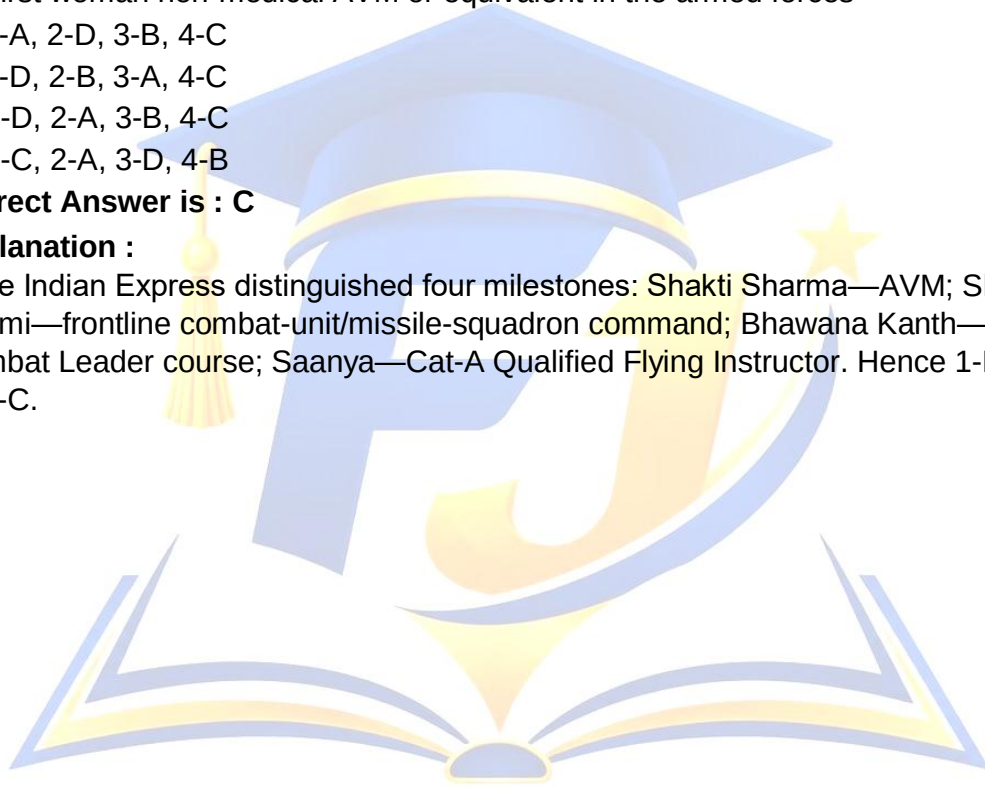
List II

- A. First woman officer to command a frontline combat unit/missile squadron in the western sector
 - B. First woman pilot to clear the Fighter Combat Leader course
 - C. First woman officer in IAF to earn Cat-A QFI qualification
 - D. First woman non-medical AVM or equivalent in the armed forces
- A) 1-A, 2-D, 3-B, 4-C
 - B) 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C
 - C) 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C
 - D) 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Indian Express distinguished four milestones: Shakti Sharma—AVM; Shaliza Dhami—frontline combat-unit/missile-squadron command; Bhawana Kanth—Fighter Combat Leader course; Saanya—Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor. Hence 1-D, 2-A, 3-B, 4-C.



51. Match the report with the principal organisation:

List I

1. Variable pay audit
2. National time reference
3. Electoral-roll revision
4. Russian crude tanker data

List II

- A. Election Commission
- B. CAG
- C. CSIR-NPL/Consumer Affairs time architecture
- D. Kpler

A) 1-C, 2-A, 3-B, 4-D

B) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

C) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

D) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D

Correct Answer is : B**Explanation :**

- The variable-pay issue was audited by CAG; the national time architecture involves CSIR-NPL and Consumer Affairs laboratories; SIR is an Election Commission exercise; and Kpler supplied tanker-tracking data used for the oil story. Therefore 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D.

52. Match the reported development with its strategic implication:

List I

1. Semicon 2.0
2. IST Rules 2026
3. Russian crude diversification
4. SCO connectivity principle

List II

- A. Sovereignty and territorial integrity
- B. Domestic semiconductor design/IP
- C. National traceable time reference
- D. Reduced exposure to disrupted West Asian crude flows

A) 1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-D

B) 1-D, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A

C) 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A

D) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

Correct Answer is : D**Explanation :**

- Semicon 2.0 focuses on Indian chip design and IP; IST Rules create a traceable national time reference; oil diversification reduces dependence on disrupted West Asian flows; and Modi linked SCO connectivity with sovereignty and territorial integrity. Hence 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A.

53. Match the date/period with the event:

List I

1. July 2026
2. 25 October 2021
3. 18 June 1994
4. August 2026

List II

- A. Shakti Sharma commissioned into IAF Education Branch
- B. Semicon 2.0 Cabinet approval
- C. IIM Rohtak regulations became effective
- D. Russian crude imports measured at 2.08 million bpd

A) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D

B) 1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-A

C) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-D

D) 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B

Correct Answer is : B**Explanation :**

- The reported chronology is July 2026 for Cabinet approval of Semicon 2.0, 25 October 2021 for IIM Rohtak regulations, 18 June 1994 for Sharma's commissioning, and August 2026 for the 2.08 million bpd Russian-crude figure. Therefore 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D.

54. Match the concept with the most appropriate static linkage:

List I

1. Strait of Hormuz
2. Northern Sea Route
3. Indian Standard Time
4. Special Intensive Revision

List II

- A. Electoral-roll management
- B. Strategic maritime chokepoint
- C. National time standard
- D. Arctic shipping route

A) 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A

B) 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C

C) 1-A, 2-D, 3-C, 4-B

D) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A

Correct Answer is : A**Explanation :**

- Hormuz is a major maritime chokepoint; the Northern Sea Route is an Arctic shipping route; IST is India's national time standard; and SIR concerns electoral rolls. The current-affairs stories used these concepts in those exact contexts. Thus 1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-A.

55. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. Chilime — Hydropower tunnel rescue
2. Kapurthala — Sainik School
3. Kpler — Electoral-roll revision
4. CSIR-NPL — Commodity tanker tracking

- A) 2 and 3 only
B) 1 and 4 only
C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
D) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

• Chilime was reported as a hydropower-tunnel rescue location, and Kapurthala was the Sainik School led by AVM Shakti Sharma. Kpler was used for oil-tanker data, while CSIR-NPL concerns time and frequency metrology. Therefore only pairs 1 and 2 are correctly matched.

56. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. Semicon 2.0 — ₹1,27,500 crore
2. IIM Rohtak variable pay — ₹3.2 crore
3. August Russian crude — 2.82 million bpd
4. August total Indian oil imports — 5.04 million bpd

- A) 2 and 4 only
B) 1, 2, 3 and 4
C) 1 and 2 only
D) 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

• Semicon 2.0 was reported with an outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore and the IIM Rohtak variable-pay issue involved ₹3.2 crore. The 2.82 million bpd figure belongs to July Russian imports, while 5.04 million bpd was July total imports. Hence only 1 and 2 are correct.

57. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. Shakti Sharma — AVM
2. Bhawana Kanth — Fighter Combat Leader course
3. Saanya — Cat-A QFI
4. Shaliza Dhami — IIM Rohtak director

- A) 1, 2 and 3 only
- B) 2 and 4 only
- C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express associated Shakti Sharma with AVM, Bhawana Kanth with the Fighter Combat Leader course and Saanya with the Cat-A QFI qualification. Shaliza Dhami was a separate IAF milestone, not the IIM Rohtak directorship. Thus 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

58. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. Russia — 45% of India's crude imports in August
2. Venezuela — 350,000 bpd in August
3. China — stronger competition for Russian barrels
4. UAE — no pipeline route to bypass Hormuz

- A) 2 and 3 only
- B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported Russia's share at 45%, Venezuelan imports at about 350,000 bpd, and stronger Chinese competition for Russian barrels. It also noted pipeline infrastructure in the UAE and Saudi Arabia that can bypass Hormuz for some output. Therefore 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

59. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. IIM Act, 2017 — performance-linked variable pay for directors
2. Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2026 — traceability to IST
3. SCO Charter — connectivity must disregard sovereignty
4. SIR — electoral-roll revision

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1, 2 and 4 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The IIM Act supports performance-linked variable pay; IST Rules require traceability to IST; and SIR concerns electoral rolls. The SCO discussion was the opposite of statement 3: Modi stressed that connectivity should respect sovereignty and territorial integrity. Hence 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

60. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. 2.08 million bpd — Russian crude imports in August
2. 4.62 million bpd — India's total oil imports in August
3. 2.82 million bpd — Russian crude imports in July
4. 5.04 million bpd — India's total oil imports in July

- A) 2 and 4 only
B) 1 and 3 only
C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
D) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- All four figures correspond to the Kpler-based data reported by The Indian Express: 2.08 and 2.82 million bpd for Russian crude in August and July respectively, and 4.62 and 5.04 million bpd for India's total imports in August and July. Hence all four are correctly matched.

61. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. Northern Sea Route — thinner ice in August-September
2. Black Sea — cited navigation/security risk for tankers
3. Hormuz — about 40% of India's usual crude imports
4. Chilime — IIM audit location

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1, 2 and 3 only
- C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express linked thinner ice in August-September with peak NSR traffic, cited Black Sea risks, and said about 40% of India's crude imports normally came through Hormuz. Chilime was a Nepal rescue location, not an audit location. Therefore 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

62. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. IIM Rohtak — Regulations effective October 2021
2. CAG report — Tabled in Lok Sabha on 12 August
3. Shakti Sharma — Commissioned 18 June 1994
4. SIR claims — Final deadline reported as 30 September

- A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B) 1 and 2 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported all four details: IIM Rohtak's regulations became effective in October 2021, the CAG report was tabled in the Lok Sabha on 12 August, Sharma was commissioned on 18 June 1994, and the SIR story noted a September 30 claims deadline. Thus all four pairs are correct.

63. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

1. Semicon 2.0 — strategic chip technologies
2. Semicon 2.0 — commercially viable chips
3. Semicon 2.0 — domestically developed chips deployed at scale
4. Semicon 2.0 — abolition of semiconductor packaging support

- A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 B) 1 and 2 only
 C) 2 and 4 only
 D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express described three design-oriented tracks covering strategic semiconductor technologies, commercially viable chips and domestically developed chips deployed at scale. It also reported support for advanced packaging. Therefore statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct, while 4 is false.

64. Study the following table based on reported August 2026 oil-import data:

Item	July	August
Russian crude	2.82 million bpd	2.08 million bpd
Total Indian oil imports	5.04 million bpd	4.62 million bpd

---|---|---

| Russian crude | 2.82 million bpd | 2.08 million bpd |

| Total Indian oil imports | 5.04 million bpd | 4.62 million bpd |

Which inference is most appropriate?

- A) Russian crude fell but total imports rose.
 B) Neither series changed materially.
 C) Both Russian crude and total imports declined month-on-month.
 D) Russian crude rose while total imports fell.

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported both series falling from July to August: Russian crude from 2.82 to 2.08 million bpd and total imports from 5.04 to 4.62 million bpd. The key analytical point is that the decline in Russian supply was a major contributor to the overall fall, although other factors also mattered.

65. Study the following policy table:

Measure	Main focus
---	---
Semicon 2.0	Chip design, IP and wider semiconductor ecosystem
IST Rules 2026	Legally enforceable national time reference
SIR	Electoral-roll revision
CAG recommendation	Framework for IIM director variable pay

Which one is incorrectly paired?

- A) IST Rules — National time reference
- B) SIR — Electoral-roll revision
- C) CAG recommendation — Railway fare rationalisation
- D) Semicon 2.0 — Chip design and IP

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

• The first three pairings reflect the September 2026 reporting. The CAG recommendation concerned a uniform, transparent and fiscally prudent framework for variable pay to IIM directors, not railway fares. The question therefore links current affairs with institutional mandates rather than merely recalling headlines.

66. Study the following table:

Institution/Actor	Reported role
---	---
CSIR-NPL	Time and frequency metrology
Kpler	Vessel/tanker tracking data
CAG	Audit of IIM variable pay
SCO	Domestic electoral-roll revision

Which row is incorrectly matched?

- A) CSIR-NPL
- B) Kpler
- C) CAG
- D) SCO

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

• CSIR-NPL, Kpler and CAG are correctly associated with the reported stories. Electoral-roll revision is handled by the Election Commission, whereas the SCO is a regional organisation focused on security and cooperation. Hence the SCO row is incorrect.

67. A policy analyst notes that a major Indian oil supplier's share declined sharply in August, while imports from another South American supplier rose. The analyst also observes that India was diversifying toward African and North American barrels.

Which development most directly explains this pattern in the reported news?

- A) Disruption of West Asian flows and tighter Russian availability
- B) A collapse in India's refining capacity to zero
- C) A fall in domestic petroleum demand alone
- D) A permanent ban on all Russian crude

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express linked the August shift to Strait of Hormuz disruption, tighter Russian export availability, stronger Chinese competition and refinery maintenance. The diversification toward African, North American and South American barrels was a response to supply and freight risks. The other options are inconsistent with the reported facts.

68. An Indian company wants its digital systems to comply with the 2026 national time rules. It asks whether simply displaying IST on a clock is sufficient.

Based on the reported framework, what is the more appropriate interpretation?

- A) The company may use any time zone if it displays IST somewhere.
- B) Only government offices must use traceable time.
- C) The rules create a separate time zone for each region.
- D) The system should be synchronised to time traceable to IST.

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express explained that the Legal Metrology (IST) Rules, 2026 require systems across sectors to synchronise to time traceable to IST. The issue is therefore traceability and synchronisation, not merely displaying the label 'IST'. The rules aim to create a common national time reference for legal, commercial and administrative use.

69. An autonomous higher-education institution approves performance-linked variable pay for its director. The payment relates to years before the relevant regulations were notified, and the director participates in matters concerning his own financial interest.

Which combination of safeguards best reflects the CAG's reported concerns?

- A) Ignore the notification date and permit participation in personal-interest matters.
- B) Apply regulations retrospectively without documentation.
- C) Ensure payments follow the effective regulations, record recusal and document performance benchmarks.
- D) Replace all IIM directors through executive order.

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that CAG objected to retrospective application and recommended adherence to regulations from their notification date. It also called for formal recording of recusal and proper documentation of performance benchmarks, evaluation records and supporting data. These safeguards directly address the audit concerns.

70. In the context of the Russian-oil story, a 'barrel per day' figure is best understood as a measure of:

- A) The average daily flow volume
- B) The sulphur content of crude
- C) The refinery's annual capacity
- D) The oil price premium per barrel

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The reported figures such as 2.08 million barrels per day are flow-rate measures, expressing the average quantity imported each day. They are not prices, annual capacity figures or quality indicators. The distinction is useful when interpreting energy-import statistics.

71. In the reported discussion of India's timing infrastructure, 'traceable to IST' most closely implies that a time measurement can be:

- A) Converted into any time zone without a reference
- B) Linked through a documented chain to a recognised national reference
- C) Declared valid solely by the device manufacturer
- D) Determined only from local sunrise

Correct Answer is : D

Explanation :

- The Indian Express explained traceability in the context of national time synchronisation. In metrology, traceability means a measurement can be related through an unbroken, documented chain of calibrations to a recognised reference. Thus the concept goes beyond merely setting a clock manually.

72. Why can a disruption in the Strait of Hormuz have a disproportionate effect on an oil-importing country such as India?

- A) Because all Indian oil refineries are located inside the Strait
- B) Because it is the only place where crude oil is produced
- C) Because it is a major maritime chokepoint through which a substantial share of India's usual crude supply passes
- D) Because it fixes the global price of all crude by treaty

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that about 40% of India's crude imports normally came through Hormuz. A maritime chokepoint can therefore transmit geopolitical disruption into supply, freight and insurance costs even when the importing country's refineries themselves remain operational.

73. Which one of the following best captures the institutional distinction highlighted by the IIM Rohtak audit?

- A) Autonomy of an institution eliminates the need for financial regulations.
- B) Board approval alone can override statutory and regulatory requirements.
- C) Institutional autonomy operates within the statutory and regulatory framework governing the institution.
- D) Variable pay is always prohibited for IIM directors.

Correct Answer is : A

Explanation :

- The Indian Express reported that the IIM Act and regulations provide a framework for performance-linked variable pay, while CAG flagged procedural and regulatory irregularities. The lesson is not that IIMs cannot have variable pay, but that autonomous institutions remain accountable to applicable law, regulations and documented procedures.

74. Which of the following best explains why the reported Russian-crude decline does not by itself establish a permanent structural retreat from Russian oil?

- A) Because the reported article described the August fall as potentially reflecting temporary supply, competition and refinery factors, with flows expected to stabilise around 2.0–2.5 million bpd
- B) Because Russian oil was legally removed from global markets
- C) Because Russia stopped producing crude
- D) Because India abolished all imports from Russia

Correct Answer is : B

Explanation :

- The Indian Express explicitly cautioned that the August fall could represent a temporary retreat rather than a structural break. It cited constrained Russian exports, Chinese competition and refinery maintenance, while reporting an expectation of stabilisation around 2.0–2.5 million bpd. Hence the broader trend requires monitoring rather than a categorical conclusion.

75. Which of the following inferences is most consistent with the SCO reporting on connectivity?

- A) Connectivity projects are purely economic and have no sovereignty implications.
- B) Connectivity can be pursued without considering territorial claims.
- C) Connectivity initiatives are expected to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.
- D) SCO connectivity is limited to maritime transport within member states.

Correct Answer is : C

Explanation :

- The Times of India reported PM Modi's reiteration that connectivity initiatives must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, describing this as consistent with the fundamental spirit of the SCO Charter. The statement therefore connects economic connectivity with geopolitical and legal principles.